

CAR-6

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Hillsboro
Public

1853

St. Paul's is located in the town of Hillsboro at the head of navigation on the Tuckahoe Creek. The Church is a small board and batten Gothic Revival building constructed in 1853. Its design is based upon Richard Upjohn's book of plans and sketches called Upjohn's Rural Architecture, published in 1852. Another church building similar to St. Paul's existed in Greensboro until a few years ago. St. Andrew's, Sudlersville, is another similar board and batten structure.

St. John's Parish was formed in 1748 by act of the Maryland Assembly. The first church was located in Queen Anne's County, but in 1768 a new church was built on this site. Rev. William Goldsborough was assigned the parish in 1842; and under his leadership, there was a renewed interest in the parish. Between 1850-53, the parish raised enough money to build the present Church. It was not until a year after Rev. Goldsborough's death, in 1858, that the Church was consecrated.

St. Paul's has been beautifully preserved through the efforts of the community in the 1960's.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland

COUNTY:

Caroline

NR

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

CAR 6

AND/OR HISTORIC:

St. John's Parish Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

One block south of alternate Maryland 404

CITY OR TOWN:

Hillsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Caroline

CODE

011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Episcopal Diocese of Easton

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 1027

CITY OR TOWN:

Easton

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

211

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Caroline County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Denton

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Hillsboro, one block south of alternate Maryland 404, is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, an excellent example of Gothic Revival. Its cornerstone laid in 1853, St. Paul's was consecrated in 1858. Constructed of board and batten siding, painted gray, it sits on a brick foundation, its steep roof covered with wood shingles. A small entrance porch is situated in the west bay of the north side. On the east and west sides of the porch are small lancet windows with leaded stained glass. The double door has three panels in each half, the top one being a pointed arch panel. East of the entrance are two stained glass lancet windows in the nave with two smaller windows on the north side of the chancel.

The west end has two stained glass lancet windows between which, centered in the gable, is an oval window with the larger axis on the vertical. A quatrefoil pattern is cut out of the barge boards on this end and the east gable of the chancel. At the peak of the west gable is a belfry still holding the original bell.

The south side of the nave has four lancet windows, two close together near the center and two near the east and west corners. Between the west window and the west corner is a tall, narrow red brick chimney with a brick, arched hood. Attached to the south side of the chancel is a shed-roofed vestry room. It has a Gothic-arch door with a small hood above it on the west side. To the right of the door is a lancet window divided horizontally into four lights. There are two identical windows on the south side.

On the east end of the chancel is a large Gothic window, with tracery dividing it into three narrow lancets, dated 1857. There is a single lancet window on the east side of the vestry room.

The nave of the church has a center aisle with box pews, most of which are original, on both sides. The pew ends have a single, recessed Gothic-arch panel. On both the north and south walls are four equally spaced bracketed posts with chamfered edges. The rafters in the nave are supported by a collar beam resting on which are two braces forming a "V". In the chancel the rafters are supported by crossed braces. All of these are exposed. Across the chancel is a railing with a quatrefoil pattern. The arch separating the chancel from the nave also has chamfered edges.

Near the center of the west wall are two vertical beams which extend the full height of the roof and support the belfry on the exterior.

The church also retains the original baptismal font and its silver communion service.

St. Paul's has been very successfully restored and is well maintained. To the south and east of the church is a small cemetery. Along the north side of the yard, paralleling the street, is a wrought iron fence with crosses on top of the poles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 15th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1853-1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the 1840's and 1850's, the Gothic Revival as espoused by the ecclesiological movement in England became widely accepted and practiced in the United States. Individual architects designed churches following the rules for church architecture established by the Ecclesiological Society in England. Some of them published books of their designs so that parishes could build in the "accepted" style without the expense of an architect. St. Paul's Church, Hillsboro, is valuable as an example of the attractive and practical buildings that could be executed by the local craftsmen from these published plans and drawings.

St. Paul's is a church of St. John's Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The parish, lying in Caroline, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties, was formed in 1748 by an act of the Maryland Assembly. The parish church, at that time, was in Queen Anne's County not far from Hillsboro, then known as Tuckahoe Bridge. In 1768, a new church was built on this site, the old one having deteriorated too much to be repaired. In the early 19th century, the church was once again in "a very ruinous State", owing to the growing strength of Methodism on the Eastern Shore.¹

With the coming of the Reverend Robert William Goldsborough in 1842, the parish once again began to thrive. Born nearby at Myrtle Grove in Talbot County, Goldsborough attended seminary in New York. He was assigned to St. John's Parish as a missionary to revive its lagging membership. Apparently he succeeded, earning the respect and love of the parishioners. When he died in 1857, his successor reported that the congregation had by then grown to a good size.

Rev. Goldsborough's rejuvenating effect on the parish was such that in 1850 he could write that "the desire for the renewal of the old church was strong, and that many whose ancestors had worshipped within its walls began to show a liking toward its venerable ruin."² Together these people

1. "Bishops Create Association to Save St. John's Church," County Record (Denton, Maryland), December 7, 1966.

2. "Bishops Create," County Record.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY Caroline	
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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8. Significance-continuation

and their minister raised enough money to build a new church. The cornerstone was laid for this in 1853. In that same year the partly constructed building was much damaged in a windstorm, but the work was continued and the finished church consecrated in 1858.

St. Paul's Church was built in the Gothic Revival style common to the ecclesiologist-influenced Episcopal Church in the 1850's. The design was taken from Richard Upjohn's book of plans and sketches called Upjohn's Rural Architecture, which was published in 1852. This book included "drawings for a small mission church, a chapel, a parsonage, and a schoolhouse."³ The following description of the church design is given by Everard Upjohn in his biography of the architect:

The church, estimated to cost about \$3,000, the exact sum naturally depending on local conditions, would seat between 125 and 150. Though simple, it was churchly, and it was provided with a lateral tower, nave, chancel, and robing room. The design and estimate included all essential furniture. The style is Early English, with plain lancets in the nave and a triple lancet in the chancel. The tower, containing a belfry, was to be crowned with a broach spire and shingled.... A simple pitched roof over both nave and chancel was supported by arched braces. Internally the walls were to be plastered, and externally they were to be covered with boards and battens.⁴

This description could be one of St. Paul's Church except that the bell tower was not constructed. Instead, a very simple bell cot was built on the roof at the west end of the building. Several more minor changes were also made in the plans as they were published. The three-part window in the east end of St. Paul's is slightly different in design than Upjohn's. There is a shed-roofed vestry room on the south side of the chancel which is not present in the published plan, and the entrance porch was placed where the tower was to have been, rather than in the west end of the nave. Changes such as these were meant to be made, however, as Upjohn developed the sketches and plans to be used as guidelines rather than strict rules.

3. Everard M. Upjohn, Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman (New York: Columbia University Press, 1939), p. 117.

4. Upjohn, pp. 117-118

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8. Significance-continuation

In his book, Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman, Everard M. Upjohn wrote of the churches built from Upjohn's Rural Architecture that

Though not startlingly beautiful, they retain the naive, quaint charm of the drawings to a surprising degree. That fortunate result is due to their complete lack of pretense....The usually meager funds of the parish and the natural tendency of the architect alike eliminated all superfluous adornment. Stripped to their essentials, they must rely on admirable proportions and the balance of asymmetrical masses. 6

The simple, graceful lines of St. Paul's Church, Hillsboro, show it to be one such successful use of Upjohn's design.

6. Upjohn, p. 120

9. Major Bibliographical References-continuation

Upjohn, Everard M. Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman.
New York: Columbia University Press, 1939.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bishops Create Association to Save St. John's Church." County Record (Denton, Maryland), December 7, 1966

Noble, Edward M., and others. History of Caroline County, Maryland, from Its Beginning. Reprint of 1920 ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971

"St. John's Parish, Hillsboro." The Eastern Shore Churchman (Vol. IV), February 1926. Microfilm M282. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, An Episode in Taste, 1840-1856. Baltimore: The

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Johns Hopkins Press, 1968. continued

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 54 ' 55 "	76 ° 03 ' 30 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Pamela James, Research Assistant

NAME AND TITLE:

Ann E. Hill

Summer Intern

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

8/73

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland

CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Arthur C. Townsend

Title

State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

CAR-6

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, HILL DORO

Chk 6
Section 6

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, HILLS BORO

CHK-6
Section 6

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

OR 1968